

'I'm a Political Prisoner' *Post 6/26/72*

Martha Is 'Leaving' Mitchell

By Helen Thomas

THURMONT, Md. (UPI)—Martha Mitchell said yesterday she definitely is leaving her husband, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, "until he decides to leave" President Nixon's reelection campaign.

In a tearful telephone call from the Westchester Country Club at Rye, New York, her former home, Mrs. Mitchell said she had become "a political prisoner" and "can't stand" any more of the life she has been living since Mitchell left his cabinet post to head the Committee to Re-elect the President.

"I'm leaving him until he decides to leave the campaign," she told this reporter. "It's horrible to me. I have been through so

much. I don't like it. Martha isn't going to stand for it.

"I love my husband very much. But I'm not going to stand for all those dirty things that go on."

With rising anger in her voice, Mrs. Mitchell said that when she was talking by phone to this reporter Thursday evening from California—a man she identified as being a security agent for the reelection committee "pulled the telephone out of the wall."

"I hope you print that," she said. "To have this jerk . . . this character come in and pull the telephone out of the wall."

In the call Thursday, Mrs. Mitchell had threatened to leave her husband unless he gave up politics. She said

that she was in her bed in her bedroom at her villa at Newport Beach, Calif., when the incident occurred.

"If you could see me, you wouldn't believe it," she said. "I'm black and blue, I'm a political prisoner."

She declined to give the name of the security agent provided by the Nixon committee after she lost her FBI protection when Mitchell gave up his cabinet post. Mrs. Mitchell flew to California last weekend for some political appearances and as guest of honor at a dinner.

Mrs. Mitchell said her husband suggested she remain in California, adding: "They left me in California with absolutely no information. They don't want me to talk."